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FIFTY YEARS OF  
AMERICAN EDUCATION



# FIFTY YEARS OF AMERICAN EDUCATION

*A SKETCH OF THE PROGRESS  
OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES  
FROM 1867 TO 1917*

BY

ERNEST CARROLL MOORE



GINN AND COMPANY

BOSTON • NEW YORK • CHICAGO • LONDON  
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*IN THE year 1867 Edwin Ginn took desk room in a modest Boston office and so began the business which has for many years been conducted under the firm name of Ginn and Company. When an individual or an organization reaches the half-century mark it seems fitting to signalize in some appropriate way that achievement. Casting about for a suitable anniversary memento of our own fifty years, we were struck by the remarkable growth and development of the school system of the United States during this period.*

*It finally seemed to us that we could do no better than invite Dr. Ernest C. Moore to sum up the educational progress of the United States since 1867. We are sure that Dr. Moore's admirable sketch of the history of education in this country for the period beginning in 1867 and ending in 1917 will be a welcome and useful contribution to our educational literature, and we bring it before the public with gratitude that our own business development has been contemporaneous with this marvelous change in our American schools.*

GINN AND COMPANY

*November, 1917*




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## CHAPTER I

OTHING seems more certain than *We live*  
that this is a dynamic universe, in *in a*  
which all things change, for activity *Period of*  
is their law. Yet the changes which everywhere *Change*  
go on take place so imperceptibly that it is only  
when their effects are massed that we begin to  
note their existence. Something very like a tor-  
rent of change has been pushing life forward in  
the United States since the Civil War, and we  
who are caught up in its onrushing have been  
carried along too swiftly to be aware of the dis-  
tance we have traveled or the speed at which  
we are moving. Francis Galton declared that  
man's work in clearing the forests of North  
America "would be visible to an observer as  
far off as the moon," yet we who dwell in the  
land that that clearing made habitable tend to  
think of its physical features as always having  
been the same as they now are. That same  
statifying tendency benumbs our perception

*Fifty Years of American Education* throughout. I heard President Eliot say in a recent address that the last fifty years has been “the most prodigious period of change through which the world has ever passed.” Most of us do not think of it in that way.

Let us note a few of the changes which came on the heels of the Civil War. The first transatlantic cable was laid in 1866. The first transcontinental railway was operated in 1869. Bell's first telephone bears the date 1875, and telephone exchanges were instituted in 1879. The first cable car line was started in San Francisco in 1873. Electric lighting dates from 1876 and electric traction from 1880. The Mergenthaler linotype was completed in 1884. In 1885 Daimler invented the internal combustion motor, and in 1894 the first trial run of automobiles was organized by a French newspaper. In 1896 Marconi produced an operative electric-wave telegraph. Langley tested his steam-driven flying machine in 1893, and in 1903 the Wright brothers made their first flight in a motor-driven aéroplane. In 1877 Holland constructed his first submarine. The



first dreadnought made its trial run in 1906. New guns, of long range, accuracy, and rapidity of fire, and high explosives contributed an instrument of slaughter which the combined power of mankind is hardly able to keep from destroying the human race. If tools are but the elongation of the human hand, man's arm has been mightily lengthened during the last half century.

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But progress in mechanical inventions is but one phase of the development of science. Perhaps the most significant changes of all have taken place in medicine. "Forty years ago," says Sir William Osler, "the world did not know the cause of any of the great infections. . . . Of all the great camp diseases—plague, cholera, malaria, yellow fever, typhoid fever, typhus, and dysentery—we know the mode of transmission; and of all but yellow fever, the germs. Man has now control of the most malign of Nature's forces in a way never dreamt of by our fathers. . . . Half a century has done more than a hundred centuries to solve the problem of the first importance in his progress."

Such are a few of the revolutionary changes which science has ushered in in the brief period of the half century which will, it seems, be known in history as the scientific age. Darwin's epochal discovery had been given to the world in 1859. Huxley, Spencer, Pasteur, Berthelot, Joule, Clerk Maxwell, Tait, and Kelvin were at work and Faraday was still alive when the period we are studying began. The creation of the sciences, always a slow process, had reached a period of intensification.

Science is an active force which infiltrates all human relations. The discovery which Darwin made has wrought no less significant changes in religious, moral, political, social, and philosophical conceptions than have steam and electricity in the way of mechanical assistance. In view of its enlarged comprehension and the changed attitudes which that enlarged comprehension entails, it is nothing short of exact truth to say that in the last half century the race has achieved a new heaven and a new earth.

If we ask how it has been with our country during this period we shall find that immense

social transformations have taken place. First came the ever-to-be regretted period of reconstruction and at the same time the rapid development of the farming regions of the great West. Then in rapid succession came civil-service reform, great labor agitations, the Sherman Antitrust Act, the panic of 1893, and the widespread agitation for monetary legislation which it caused. Then came the war with Spain, in which the United States took possession of Cuba and restored that island to its rightful owners, drove Spain from the Philippine Islands and determined to retain them until such time as they might safely be intrusted to their own inhabitants, thus forsaking its previous policy of isolation to become an active member of the family of the great powers of the world. The Pacific was joined to the Atlantic, the franchise was extended to women in several states, immigrants poured into the country by the million. The desert was reclaimed; farm acreage was extended by an area that exceeded the territory of the German Empire. Industrialism grew, cities doubled and trebled their populations, great

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*Fifty Years of American Education* combinations of skilled and unskilled workers were formed. Political radicalism gained control and semisocialistic programs of reform were enacted into laws.


Have changes at all comparable with these taken place in education? Has the progress of invention, the advance of science, the onrushing development of social, economic, and political life been accompanied by a corresponding development in the schools of the nation? Progress in education follows progress in other activities of life. It is apt to follow somewhat afar off, for the school is a conserving rather than a renewing force. The battle of ideas does not rage in it as it rages in the world. Its first duty is to teach, and before it can do so confidently it must be assured of the validity and the great worth of what it teaches. Adults are far more ready to try experiments upon themselves than upon their children. The young, they feel, must not be endangered by innovations. Only that which has been tested and proved, although usually by time rather than by merit, has a claim upon their attention. The school, therefore, sits somewhat

apart from the current of change. Yet there is a relation between educational advance and industrial and civic progress, and in a democracy it must, in a measure, overcome its tendency to aloofness and make itself the responsive servant of the public need. This it has done and is doing, and, as a consequence, the changes which have taken place in education in the last fifty years are momentous.

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## CHAPTER II

O PROVIDE a background for our *Education at the End of the Civil War* picture let us take note of the significant educational movements which had been set afoot before the period which we are to study began, in order that we may know its historical heredity. In Massachusetts localism obtained its greatest control over education in the decentralized district school about the year 1827. There were only two functions which the districts could not perform. One was the levying and apportioning of taxes and the other was the certificating of teachers, both of these functions being retained by the towns. The school district is the minutest subdivision into which governmental authority has ever been broken, and under its control of instruction public education declined to its nadir. The process by which the school districts thus unhappily opposed the general welfare and obtained a destructive measure of local control was at least a century long. It

brought about the undoing of the town grammar schools and provided only very inferior neighborhood schools in place of them. In self-defense the wealthier folks here and there established private academies to obtain a better education for their children, and in time the state aided them with grants of public money. These schools were free in the sense that they were open to all who could meet their conditions, but their tuition fees had to be paid.

But about the year 1800 an immense change had begun to come over the land. The invention of the steam engine had started a mighty transformation in the life of the people. Domestic industry was supplanted by the factory system. The factories which sprang up needed workers, and people flocked from the country into the towns. At first the towns were little better than hastily constructed camps without adequate housing, adequate sanitation, adequate police and health regulations. Ignorance, disease, drunkenness, poverty, and crime flourished in them. Then came the hard times of 1819-1821, which made conditions so desperate that



great humanitarian movements took form to alleviate them. Among these were the temperance movement; the labor movement; the philanthropic movement to care for the poor, to provide hospitals for the insane, to combat the increase of crime and furnish training to the deaf, dumb, and blind; and, most important of all, a mighty movement in behalf of popular education, preaching a veritable crusade against the evils of the time by the creation of tax-supported public schools. This is the period of our educational revival which after-years may look back upon as no less significant in human history than the Renaissance or the Reformation.

The names of the humanitarians are on the honor roll of the nation. Among them are the educational revivalists. James G. Carter is their leader and more than any other is responsible for starting the great school reform. He fought valiantly against the two causes which seemed to him to be chiefly responsible for the failure of free schools: bad teachers and poor books. The state, he said, must go into the business of training teachers, and must provide that training

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without cost to them. He outlined an institution which would do this, and declared that only by its creation could standards of qualification be set, and stability, dignity, and power be given to the teaching profession. He did not succeed immediately in persuading the state of Massachusetts to authorize the founding of normal schools, but he was the prime mover in that enterprise and one of the founders of that oldest of teachers' associations, the American Institute of Instruction, which took form in 1829. That organization met in Boston. Its membership was composed largely of teachers and educational leaders from New England; but representatives from the Middle, the Southern, and the Western states were present at its meetings and gave the society a national character from its very beginning. Its purpose was "to do something toward elevating the standard and increasing the efficiency of popular instruction," says the preface to the first volume of its Proceedings. "It will furnish the means, by the coöperation of its members, of obtaining an exact knowledge of the present condition of the

schools in all parts of the country. It will tend to render universal, so that it shall pervade every district and village, a strong conviction of the paramount national importance of preserving and extending the means of popular instruction, thus securing the aid of multitudes of fellow laborers in every portion of the country. It will tend to raise the standard of the qualification of instructors, so that the business of teaching shall not be the last resort of dullness and indolence, but shall be considered, as it was in the days of republican Greece, an occupation worthy of the highest talents and ambition. It will hardly fail to show that education is a science, to be advanced, like every other science, by experiment; whose principles are to be fixed and capacities determined by experiment; which is to be entered upon by men of a philosophical mind and pursued with a philosophical spirit. It will be likely to bring forward the modes and objects of instruction in foreign nations and ancient times and their applicability to the state of things among ourselves.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> From the preface to the first volume of the Proceedings of The American Institute of Instruction.

The nation now had a parliament for "the diffusion of useful knowledge in regard to education." The cry had been sounded that "this country ought to be the best educated on the face of the earth," and its educational leaders were now organized to make it so.

Other revivalists of education were Samuel R. Hall, who founded at Andover in the year 1829 a seminary for teachers, a private normal school and the first real school for teachers in the United States; Horace Mann, the protagonist of public education, who having worked with the others of that splendid company to create the first State Board of Education in Massachusetts, in 1837 became its secretary; Charles Brooks, who without compensation traveled over New England, preaching the gospel of free public education; George B. Emerson, the prime mover in forming the Boston Mechanics' Institution in 1827; and Henry Barnard, "the Educator." They preached the doctrine that universal education is necessary to increase production, to diminish crime, to prevent poverty, to preserve free institutions, and to prevent the creation of

a caste system, and that it is one of the natural rights of man. The people heard them gladly. The pioneers in the West and the laboring men in the cities lent valiant support to the cause.

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Of Horace Mann and his work something more must be said even in so brief an account as this is intended to be. In 1836 the directors of the American Institute of Instruction presented a memorial to the legislature of Massachusetts, "showing the inefficiency of the means now employed for the education of the teachers of the common schools and praying the legislature to do something for their better instruction." They asked it to appoint a superintendent of the common schools. Governor Everett, however, in his message to the legislature recommended the creation of a state board of education; and, very fortunately for the future of the public schools of the nation, since no lone and unsupported superintendent could have done what was required unaided, the governor's recommendation prevailed. Accordingly, in 1837, a State Board of Education, made up of the governor and lieutenant-governor as

ex-officio members and of eight others appointed by the governor, came into being. The Board was authorized to appoint a secretary whose duty was to be "to collect information of the actual conditions and efficiency of the common schools and other means of popular education and to diffuse as widely as possible throughout every part of the commonwealth information of the most approved and successful modes of instruction."

Mr. Horace Mann, an attorney-at-law of Dedham, who was the presiding officer of the senate of Massachusetts, championed the bill from the first. His keen interest in the cause of education, his activity in many lines of public reform, and his readiness to work without sparing himself led the governor to appoint him as one of the members of the new Board. "For myself," he writes, "I never had a sleeping or waking dream that I should ever think of myself or be thought of by any other in relation to" the post of secretary. Twenty days before the appointment of the new Board was announced such a suggestion was made to him by one who

was in the confidence of the governor and was, *Education*  
like himself, to be a member of the Board. Was *at the End*  
Mr. Mann fitted for such a post? He had not been *of the*  
professionally trained for educational leader- *Civil War*  
ship, but nobody else had been then. He had  
not served the cause of public education as  
had Mr. James G. Carter, who for years had  
urged school reform in Massachusetts. But he  
had served the people most acceptably in a posi-  
tion of leadership. He was a trained and success-  
ful lawyer, a man of great talent, and no one alive  
was more interested than he in the welfare of  
humanity or more eager to serve its helplessness  
and need. Indeed, he was a kind of knight-errant  
of the holy spirit, laborious and self-denying to a  
fault, one of the finest and most useful of all the  
great men whom our country has yet produced.  
“By their fruits ye shall know them.” Judged in  
the light of what he did for public-school edu-  
cation in America, the members of the Board of  
Education seem to have been inspired in their  
choice of their secretary.

The words of the fathers are both interest-  
ing and profitable. How did this first *de facto*

*Fifty Years of American Education* superintendent of schools in our country regard his work? Of the Board of Education he writes:

*Education* It is the first great movement toward an organized system of common education which shall be at once thorough and universal. Every civilized state is imperfectly organized without a minister or secretary of instruction, as it would be without ministers or secretaries of state, finance, war, or the navy. Every child should be educated; if not educated by its own father, the state should appoint a father to it. I would much sooner surrender a portion of the territory of the commonwealth to an ambitious neighbor than I would surrender the minds of its children to the dominion of ignorance. . . . When will society, like a mother, take care of all her children?

When he is pressed for an answer whether he will accept the secretaryship of the Board, he writes in his diary:

I cannot think of that station as regards myself without feeling both hopes and fears, desires and apprehensions multiplying in my mind—so glorious a sphere should it be crowned with success, so heavy a disappointment and humiliation should it fail through any avoidable misfortune. What a thought, to have the future minds of such multitudes dependent in any perceptible degree upon one's own



exertions ! It is such a thought as must mightily energize or totally overpower any mind that can adequately comprehend it.

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And when on the 29th of June, 1837, this first American director of the education of the young is elected to his high responsibility, we find him writing down a prayer for “an annihilation of selfishness, a mind of wisdom, a heart of benevolence” and resolving within himself, as both he and all his sons of the office have such good need to, that there is but one spirit in which the impediments raised by men of one motive, who are incased in jealousy and prejudice and intent only upon gain for themselves, can be met, and that is the spirit of self-abandonment—the spirit of the martyr.

I must not irritate, I must not humble, I must not degrade anyone in his own eyes. I must not present myself as a solid body to oppose, an iron barrier to any. I must be a fluid sort of man, adapting myself to tastes, opinions, habits, manners, so far as this can be done without hypocrisy or insincerity or a compromise of principle. In all this there must be a higher principle than to win personal esteem, or favor, or worldly applause. A new fountain may now be opened.

*Fifty Years of American Education* Let me strive to direct its current in such a manner that if when I have departed from life I may still be permitted to witness its course, I may behold it broadening and deepening in an everlasting progression of virtue and happiness. . . . I have faith in the improbability of men—in their accelerating improbability.

Such was his consecration and such was his creed.

By 1850 the New England doctrine of tax-supported free schools had been accepted in all the Northern States, and free schools had made their appearance in some of the states of the South. The normal school was from the first an essential feature, perhaps the chief feature of this great democratic movement for popular education. In 1839–1840 Massachusetts created three of them, at Lexington, Barre, and Bridgewater. Other states soon established them. It followed that if the schools were to be of the people, for the people, and by the people, the endowed academies must be superseded by public high schools. The first high school had been established by the municipality of Boston in 1821. Neighboring towns soon created

similar ones. Philadelphia in 1838 established the Central High School; Baltimore opened a city college and Providence created a high school in 1843; and Hartford made over her grammar school into a high school in 1847. *Education at the End of the Civil War*

It was fortunate for the nation that the claims of education were so incomparably championed at the time when the life of the states was beginning to take organized form. But for what the educational revivalists did and stimulated others to do in other parts of the land, the nation might have been very different from what it has been and will be, and education might have had but a small and insignificant part in it. As it was, the foundations which they put down had only been laid, when the question of slavery and the all-absorbing Civil War claimed the attention of men, and what they had so finely begun had to be taken up as unfinished business and carried to completion when the war was over and life had once more resumed its proper course.

The year 1867 witnessed that great resumption of the nation's proper business. On March 2 of that year an act establishing a department

*Fifty Years of American Education* of education was approved, the first section of which reads as follows:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* that there shall be established at the city of Washington, a Department of Education for the purpose of collecting such statistics and facts as shall show the condition and progress of education in the several States and Territories, and of diffusing such information respecting the organization and management of school systems and methods of teaching as shall aid the people of the United States in the establishment and maintenance of efficient school systems and otherwise promote the cause of education throughout the country.

That tireless struggler for public schools, Henry Barnard, was appointed the first Commissioner of Education, and at the end of one year in office, on March 15, 1868, he submitted his first report. That report contains priceless material concerning the history of education in our country, not the least of which is the speech made by James A. Garfield of Ohio in support of the bill to establish a national bureau of education which a select committee, of which he was chairman, had reported to the House on

the memorial of the National Association of School Superintendents.

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There were 36 states in the United States at that time. Even the Congressional Library contained no educational reports whatever from 19 of them. The other 17 had raised by taxation \$34,000,000 annually for the support and maintenance of public schools during the five years of war. The Census of 1860 showed that there were in the United States 115,224 common schools, 150,241 teachers, and 5,477,037 scholars. According to the same census there were 1,218,311 free white inhabitants of the United States over twenty-one years of age who could not read or write, and 871,418 of these were American-born citizens. Their number had been growing alarmingly. Mr. Mann added 30 per cent to these figures for "undoubted underestimates," and some persons went so far as to declare that one fourth of the population were illiterate. A third of a million immigrants were arriving every year, a large proportion of whom were uneducated, and 4,000,000 slaves had just been admitted to citizenship by the

events of the war. "Such, Sir," said Mr. Garfield, "is the immense force which we must now confront by the genius of our institutions and the light of our civilization. How shall it be done? An American citizen can give but one answer. We must pour upon them the light of our public schools. We must make them intelligent, industrious, patriotic citizens, or they will drag us and our children down to their level."

The work to be done in the new era which began at the close of the Civil War was gigantic, but the American spirit had been re-created and balked at nothing. What were the agencies already in existence which it could employ in the resolute fight for internal development to which it now gave itself? Public education was now definitely regarded as a national interest. It is not only the birthright of the child but the state's indispensable means of self-preservation and improvement. Twenty-six states had by the beginning of the year 1867 created state school systems and state superintendents of public instruction to direct them. By that date there were 4 state normal schools in Massachusetts,

2 in New York, 1 in Michigan, 1 in New Jersey, 1 in Illinois, 4 in Pennsylvania, 5 in Wisconsin, 1 in Minnesota, 1 in California, 1 in Indiana, 1 in South Carolina, 3 in Vermont, 1 in Kansas, 2 in Maine, 1 in Maryland, and 1 in Delaware. City normal schools had been opened at New Haven, St. Louis, San Francisco, and in 3 towns in Indiana and 3 in Iowa. Upon the refusal of the legislature of Ohio to establish such a school the State Teachers' Association in 1855 started one. The report of the Commissioner of Education for the year 1870, a precious volume because it contains the first available body of statistics concerning the schools of the United States, reports that in this year no less than 369 colleges were in existence. In 1862, in the midst of the Civil War, Congress had passed a bill granting to each state 30,000 acres of land for each senator and representative in Congress. The income from the sale of this land was, according to the directions of the bill, to constitute a perpetual fund, and the interest on that fund was to be used for "the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one

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college" in which "the leading object should be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the Legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes, in their several pursuits and professions in life." Nineteen states had established colleges before the end of 1861, the University of Pennsylvania having been created in 1755, the University of Vermont in 1791, the University of Virginia in 1825, the University of Indiana in 1828, the University of Michigan in 1837, and the University of Wisconsin in 1848.

If we turn now to the report of the Commissioner of Education for the year 1870, in order to learn where the educational battle was pitched, we shall find some interesting facts concerning the condition of education in the several states at that time.

The first free public school was established in California in 1849. In 1869 there were



73,754 children enrolled in 1268 schools. In the 1916 Report of the Commissioner of Education the whole number of pupils in school in that state is reported as 513,002. *Education at the End of the Civil War*

Though the laws of the state of Connecticut laid an obligation upon every parent and guardian of children "not to suffer so much barbarism in any of their families as to have a single child or apprentice unable to read" and also "to bring them up to some lawful calling or employment," the rate bill existed in that state until the year 1868, when a law was passed requiring each town to "raise by taxation such sum of money as it may find necessary to make its schools free." The first year's trial of this measure demonstrated that some 6000 children had been kept from school by the rate bill. New Haven reports that it has maintained a system of graded schools for sixteen years.

Delaware replies to the request of the commissioner for information about its schools that it "is unable to supply reports asked for." There appears to have been a complete absence of supervision there.

The number of children attending school in the state of Illinois in 1868 was 706,780. The latest figure is 1,246,827. Only about 5 per cent of its schools were graded in 1867. "This small proportion of graded schools," writes the superintendent, "furnishes an impressive practical argument in favor of the abolition of the independent local school district. But while the adoption of the township system would remove all organic obstacles to the general prevalence of graded schools, it would not remove the misapprehension, prejudice, and indifference which so largely obtain in respect to the improved kinds of schools and methods of instruction." In this wise observation made fifty years ago, the need for the consolidation of schools is clearly stated and the obstacle which to this day has prevented that much agitated reform is pointed out.

The Superintendent of Schools of Indiana reports that although the constitution of the state makes it incumbent upon the legislature to provide "a general and uniform system of common schools wherein tuition shall be without

charge and equally open to all, we cannot avoid the grave consideration that there is a large colored population in the state who have hitherto submitted patiently to the ordeal of adverse public sentiment and the force of our statutes in being denied participation in our public-school funds, while at the same time no bar can be discovered to their natural and constitutional right to these. . . . Colored citizens while hitherto deprived of their natural and constitutional rights have been subject to the special school tax for township purposes in common with white citizens, and have thus paid their proportion of expense for building schoolhouses for white children. After being denied all privilege to the school funds and thus taxed, they have been under the necessity of levying upon themselves an additional tax to build their own schoolhouses and for the entire cost of their tuition." This passage shows that since that day the people of the United States have, in at least one respect, grown considerably in grace and in justice.

Iowa reports that every civil township is a

*Fifty Years of American Education* school district and is divided into subdistricts with subdirectors, each subdirector having charge of the school affairs in his district.

It is a notable fact that persons are often chosen for these positions without any reference to financial ability or even common prudence. Much attention is attached to the training in music which is given in many of the graded schools. The old practice of rote singing is discarded.

Kansas reports that though "the constitution of the state provides that 'the 500,000 acres of land granted to the new states under an act of Congress distributing the proceeds of public lands among the several states of the Union, approved September 4, A. D. 1841, shall be inviolably appropriated to the support of the common schools,' notwithstanding this provision, the legislature of 1866 appropriated the whole 500,000 acres to four railway companies."

The report of the Superintendent of Schools of Kentucky gives an account of the struggle of that state to obtain a reform in its school laws which failed "through the ignorance and prejudice of the legislature, notwithstanding a

previous decision of the people, by a majority of 20,000 votes, in favor of such reform. The common sentiment expressed was, 'Give us better laws and more money or abolish the school system altogether.' "

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Michigan reports that "the plan of free schools has been in operation less than a single term, the legislature having only at the last session abolished the rate bill. In consequence of the schools being free, the length of time they have been held has been greatly increased. In some districts they are said to have nearly twice the length of school that they have previously had. The advantages of the free-school system are so manifest that it was adopted in most of the cities and large towns several years since, the rate being abolished by public vote. It is estimated that tuition in the graded schools is at least ten cents a month cheaper than in the schools which are not graded."

A New Hampshire superintendent, even in that early day, finds courage to protest against the study of grammar. "How vague and unsatisfactory the ideas which our pupils gain

from such terms as auxiliary, antecedent, correlative, coördinate, proposition, passive, impersonal, infinitive, logical, synopsis, etc." "But music," he writes, "is now a regular exercise, the same as arithmetic or geography."

The superintendent reports that in New Jersey there are 696 districts in which the schools are free and 634 in which they are supported in part by tuition fees which the pupils pay. "If the action necessary to make schools free is not taken by the legislature soon, I am confident the people themselves will make them free by their own voluntary efforts."

The schools of New York were not free to all the children of the state until 1867. The superintendent of that state speaks of its public-school system as "but an orderly plan of the people to educate themselves." At that time the city of Brooklyn had a course of study which was divided into six primary and six grammar grades, with a thirteenth grade added as an advanced course. Promotions were made semiannually after "careful examination of all the classes throughout the entire school at the same time."

Ohio reports the number of districts in which the teachers "boarded round" as 2025. The average number of pupils per teacher in the schools of Cincinnati at that time was 50.3 in the district school and 48.9 in the intermediate. In that city "the phonic method has now been very generally adopted in the schools as the basis for instruction in reading in the lower grades. Since the beginning of the year the department of drawing has been thoroughly reorganized. The superintendent of drawing gives regular lessons two days in the week and devotes the remainder of his time to supervision."

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High schools are mentioned in the report from Pennsylvania:

Except in the matter of authorizing school directors to grade the schools where they can be graded, our school law makes no provision for the encouragement of higher education. A district may tax itself to establish and support a high school, but the state lends it no helping hand in doing so.

The city of Philadelphia reports that upwards of 20,000 children not attending any school are running the streets "in idleness and

*Fifty Years of American Education*      vagabondism. To enact a compulsory-education law without other essential provisions would be idle and chimerical. Not unless we clothe these 20,000 children and place them in point of appearance on a level with those who now occupy almost every seat, can our public schools open their doors for these outcasts of society and render them the same facilities afforded to the better class now in attendance.”

We find the president of the Board of Education of that city offering this testimony as to the unorganized condition of the schools:

Had the public schools of Philadelphia the very necessary and competent services of a city superintendent to interpret, arrange, and execute our rules upon this and other kindred matters of school government and discipline, how readily could these conflicting views be harmonized and all difficulties and diversity of sentiment among the teachers adjusted. Let us hope that the time is not far distant when councils will see the imperative necessity of making appropriation necessary to secure the services of such an executive head for the public schools. Our duty is simply to legislate. We need a proper officer to execute the laws essential to the prosperity and unity of the system.



The fifty years since this was written have supplied many a superintendent to city boards of education, but they have not disclosed many boards of education with as clear a notion of their duties as this board member had. *Education at the End of the Civil War*

The references to the schools of Massachusetts in this report of the United States Commissioner of Education are particularly valuable, for enough quotations from the school reports of the towns are given to enable a reader to construct a rather clear picture of the educational situation in the mother commonwealth shortly after the close of the war. The number of public schools in the state for 1869 was 4959. The average length of school was eight months and four days, and 1085 male and 6937 female teachers were employed. There were in the state 175 high schools, 35 more than the law required. There were also 45 incorporated academies and 481 private schools and unincorporated academies, in which the amount paid for tuition was estimated at \$593,005, making an aggregate of \$3,716,892.40 expended in the state in teaching its children. There are a

number of protests in the reports of the towns which tell in an incisive way what difficulties the schools were contending with. Among them are such statements as "One fourth of the time and money devoted to the schools is wasted and will be until parents manifest an increasing interest in the intellectual welfare of their children and consider it a duty to keep them regularly at school." "It is a remarkable fact that a majority of those who vote at town meeting against sufficient appropriations for a full term of free school are those who pay small taxes." "When our churches are magnificent and our houses are elegant, our temples of learning should not be barns." "To make a child think for himself is the teacher's main business. He should not aim to cram the memory of children with the results of his own thinking, but stimulate them to do their own thinking." "If the teacher would teach topics in such a way that each mind could grasp the thoughts, instead of requiring pupils to commit to memory only words, we should seldom be obliged to hear the too frequent remark, 'I have been over the

lessons but do not know anything about them.'” *Education at the End of the Civil War*  
“Let the school hours and studies be few and pleasant, especially to the beginner, lest he learn to hate them before he knows their value and become a truant before he becomes a scholar.” “The school in this town where most attention has been given to object instruction has done more work in the regular studies than any other of its grade.” “There should be one school in town open to advanced scholars from all parts of the town for a term of twelve weeks at least. If so vast a majority of our children cannot go to the high school, it is important to take measures to bring some of the high-school studies to them.”

In 1868 the town of Fall River established half-time schools “for children between the ages of 5 and 15 employed in the mills.” One half of these children went to school in the forenoon and worked in the mill in the afternoon, the other half worked in the morning and went to school in the afternoon. Indian Orchard had a similar half-time school. It is clear from the ages included in this arrangement

*Fifty Years of* that child-labor laws are a creation of the last  
*American Education* fifty years.

The city of Boston in 1870 reported that lessons in vocal and physical culture have been given in all the primary schools. Music is taught universally, and its study is considered of much importance. In some primary schools the phonic system of teaching reading has been employed and with success. There are thirteen special teachers of sewing.

In 1869 the district-school system was for a second time abolished, but its abolition was repealed the next year. It did not meet its doom in Massachusetts until the year 1882.

In short, our study shows that though in 1867 a beginning had been made in most of the activities of education, nothing more than a beginning had been made. The development, therefore, of all the great present-day agencies of education—free graded elementary schools, intermediate schools, high schools, normal schools, the great universities, schools for the negro and the Indian, vocational schools, the great foundations, departments in universities

for the study of education, statistical information concerning schools, new courses of study, a vast literature about teaching, well-nigh the whole present-day science of education (including school administration, child-study, educational psychology, the history and theory of education, school hygiene, and educational standards and measurements), and very nearly the entire machinery of school supervision (city superintendents, supervising principals, supervisors of subjects, and state inspectors and agents)—is a growth of the last fifty years. This statement refers to changes so colossal that the mere effort to think of them one after the other is stupefying, but we have not begun to enumerate them all. Our list makes no mention of school buildings, play and playgrounds, compulsory education, truant schools, juvenile courts, public libraries, and a score more of agencies which have been developed to assist the school in its work. This whole accumulation of progress has come about so gradually that it is only when we set ourselves consciously to unravel its history that we become aware how truly marvelous it is.

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### CHAPTER III



LET us examine its several parts a little in detail. In 1871 New Jersey, the last state in the United States to do so, abolished the rate bill, and the schools of the entire nation became definitely free. In 1866, when James A. Garfield made his report to the House of Representatives urging it to establish a national bureau of education, he referred to compulsory school attendance in rather hesitating terms :

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The genius of our government does not allow us to establish a compulsory system of education, as is done in some of the countries of Europe. There are states in this Union, however, which have adopted a compulsory system, and perhaps that is well. It is for each state to determine. A distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island told me lately that it is now the law in that state that every child within its borders shall attend school and that every vagrant child shall be taken in charge by the authorities and sent to school. It may be well for other states to pursue the same course; but probably the general government can do nothing of the sort.

The complaint is general in the first reports of the school authorities which the Commissioner of Education reproduces that children do not attend school; that parents are very remiss in their duty of sending them. Maine reports that "in general terms truancy and absenteeism deprive us of at least 25 per cent of attainable results in the educational line." Massachusetts was among the first to act, passing a compulsory-education law in 1852. Each town was authorized to establish "a reform school" for children between the ages of seven and sixteen who, "not attending school or without any regular occupation, are growing up in ignorance," and to send such children there instead of fining them, if it is thought best. Springfield reports that such a school was established in the almshouse, but, more significantly, that an ungraded school has also been established where habitual truants "who ought to be sent to the reform school may be kept under instruction until they can be returned to the graded schools." In 1870 the city of Boston employed ten truant officers who gave their entire time to investigating



cases of truancy and securing the attendance of absentees. It is a far cry from these beginnings to the more wholesome conditions of the present time. In 1916 all the states but one, Mississippi, and certain counties of Arkansas had compulsory-attendance laws; twenty-seven of them requiring attendance for the full school year and the others for a specified part of it, in no case less than twelve weeks. In 1870 the average number of years of schooling of two hundred days each received by each pupil in public and private schools was 3.36; in 1914 it was 6.16. The persistent effort to secure for all the children their right to an education which has characterized the last fifty years has produced a great number of agencies and devices for the protection of children, among them child-labor laws, which have been passed by most of the states and just recently by the nation (1916). In 1899 the state of Illinois created a juvenile court. The law which brought that wholesome child-saving agency into being has since been adopted by forty-four states and the District of Columbia. It has proved itself a real contribution

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*Fifty Years of American Education* to the world, for many foreign countries have adopted it. "I observe," says George Sorel in his "Reflections on Violence," "that nothing is more remarkable than the change which has taken place in the methods of bringing up children; formerly it was believed that the rod was the most necessary instrument of the schoolmaster; nowadays corporal punishments have disappeared from our public elementary schools." That statement is not literally true for the United States, but it is so nearly true that it may stand as perhaps the most significant proof which can be shown that civilization has really been in process of becoming in recent years. The modern school is a cheerful, happy place. In it teachers train rather than govern. Its first aim is to inculcate self-control. Flogging and a pallid quiet are no longer to be found in it. It is a workshop rather than a disciplinary cell. The suggestion which was made in the more optimistic years of its first decade that the twentieth century was to be the century of the child may not, let us hope, be so far wrong after all.

The course of study which the people of this democracy at the several periods of its history have regarded as sufficient to prepare their children for the work of life is a pretty good index of the real progress of the nation. The period of rigorous Puritanism from 1630 to 1750 brought up its children on the hornbook, the religious primer, the Psalter, the New and the Old Testament. In the period from 1750 to 1800 the spelling book took the place of the primer; in 1789 arithmetic was required by law in Massachusetts. Geography began to be "read" here and there about the year 1800. There was a bit of English grammar in the spelling books, and brief lessons were assigned in that subject at the beginning of the nineteenth century. "In some of the early editions [of the third part of my Institute published in 1785] I introduced short notices of the geography and history of the United States, and these led to more enlarged descriptions of the country," says Noah Webster. History was taught only in this incidental way until the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

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There was imperative need for expansion of the course of study. The first address delivered before the American Institute of Instruction was upon the "Importance of Physical Education," by Dr. J. C. Warren. At its fourth meeting (1834) the Institute discussed the question "Can common schools be conducted profitably without the aid of bodily punishment?" and adopted a resolution "that the introduction of vocal music into our schools is an object of high importance to the community, and the American Institute of Instruction do hereby most cordially recommend it to public favor." A resolution of 1838 declared "it is desirable that the teaching of vocal music should be introduced into the common schools as soon as it may be practicable." A resolution was introduced in 1844 "that the time now devoted to the study of the dead languages as a part of collegiate education may be better employed upon other subjects," but was laid on the table.

In 1871 the Institute listened to an address on "Kindergartening the Gospel for Children," by Miss E. P. Peabody, but it was not until 1882

that it recommended "the teaching of drawing, not as an accomplishment but as a language for the graphic presentation of the facts and forms of objects."

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The spirit of Pestalozzi brooded over the practice of education in the United States about the middle of the last century. Education, he said, is not memorizing the contents of books, it is learning to use one's own mind in doing something. It is growth from within outward, not from without inward. The dull bookwork of reading, writing, and ciphering was touched with life. The inclusion of object lessons introduced oral instruction, with all its beneficent, lively, free conversation about real things in place of the mumbling about abstractions which had previously comprised so large a part of school work.

The Schoolmaster of Yverdon transformed the schools of America as well as of Europe. "The importation of the Pestalozzian methods of the Home and Colonial School Society into the United States is the most striking development in American elementary education during

the middle of the nineteenth century," says Professor Parker. The first improvement was the introduction of object lessons as an experiment at the Oswego Normal School. Object teaching soon became the leading subject for discussion in teachers' institutes and spread widely in the schools. In 1870 object lessons began to develop into instruction in natural science as a systematic study for children in the elementary schools. That in turn gave place to nature study in the latter part of the nineteenth century, the distinction between them being that nature study is the observational study of living objects and processes for the sake of becoming familiar with them, while the natural science which it displaced was a highly technical endeavor to master the general principles of science, which usually resulted in only a verbal knowledge of them.

Geography was one of the sciences of the Greeks. Its modern form is due to Humboldt and Carl Ritter. Ritter, the scientist, about 1807 came under the influence of Pestalozzi, the teacher, and undertook to prepare "a treatise in his method on Geography." From that time

“the first step in a knowledge of geography is to know thoroughly the district where we live.” This ideal teaching of geography as a study of man’s relation to the earth, based on the personal investigation of every student who attempts to pursue it, is still fighting its way against mnemonic devotion to a text. Arnold Guyot, the pupil of Ritter, came from Switzerland to Massachusetts in the year 1848. For six years he was employed as an inspector and institute lecturer by the Massachusetts State Board of Education. In 1854 he was made professor of geology and physical geography at Princeton. Of his work he wrote:

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During more than nine years it was my privilege to address thousands of teachers in the normal schools of Massachusetts and New Jersey, and in the teachers’ institutes, on the subject of geographical teaching and the reform so much needed in that important department of instruction.

About the year 1866 he published a series of textbooks and also a manual on “Geographical Teaching.” The task of carrying on the reform in geography teaching which Guyot had begun

fell to Francis W. Parker. In season and out of season he preached its claims for a lifetime. He trained thousands of teachers, addressed hundreds of institutes, and in 1889 published his "How to teach Geography," "a practical exposition of methods and devices in teaching geography which apply the principles and plans of Ritter and Guyot" his editor calls it. But with these men the modern teaching of geography had only begun. Their work has been carried forward by scores of disciples and in every part of the land.

In 1821 Warren Colburn published his "First Lessons in Arithmetic on the Plan of Pestalozzi." The object of this book, as of Pestalozzi's teaching itself, was to banish ciphering as the mere carrying out of rules. Its whole purpose was to do away with ununderstandable abstractions by teaching little children in their very first lessons that all numbers are numbers of things. "The idea of number is first acquired by observing sensible objects," he said, and to prevent otherwise inevitable confusion no figures were introduced in the first fifty-five pages



of the book. Number ideas and number names and mental operations with numbers were given the complete right of way over figures, rules, written work, and the ciphering of the past. This plan commended itself to great numbers of teachers, and the textbook which presented it was very widely used. About the year 1870 an intensified Pestalozzianism, known as the Grube method of teaching arithmetic, became very popular in the United States. Each numeral, according to this method, was treated by itself, and the student learned to put it through all the fundamental operations before he was allowed to pass on to the next number. Such exhaustive thoroughness was not only impossible to children but undesirable on the part of anyone, and the rise of the Grube method was followed by its fall in the early part of the period. But interest in the proper teaching of arithmetic has grown with the years. The thinking arithmetic which Warren Colburn struggled for has been the aim not of all but of every informed teacher who has come after him. Next to this the most noteworthy change has been in a persistent effort

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to modernize our rather archaic textbooks by omitting all subjects, methods, and problems which are not warranted by obvious applicability. A third change which has come about in arithmetic is the extended use of standardized tests to measure the work which children are able to do in it. We shall speak of these later.

The teaching of geography and arithmetic had begun to be rationalized here and there before the end of the Civil War. That work went forward. Object lessons had been introduced, and natural science and nature study followed them. New methods of teaching pupils to read began, as we have seen, to find favor. The worst method of teaching reading, the alphabet method, was practically the only method used from the earliest days of instruction in that subject by the Greeks down to our period. Comenius and the Jansenists found a better way, but their discovery did not change the universal A B C practice. The author of Worcester's "Primer," 1828, declared in his preface:

It is not, perhaps, very important that a child should know the letters before it begins to read. It

may learn first to read words, by seeing them, hearing them pronounced, and having their meanings illustrated; and afterwards it may learn to analyze them or name the letters of which they are composed.

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Horace Mann vigorously advocated the word method. But since the order of learning according to Pestalozzi was from simple to complex, there must be long drills, he said, upon the letters and after that long drills in forming letters into syllables and in making syllables into words. Consequently the influence of Pestalozzi and his followers upon the proper teaching of reading was harmful. It was not until the year 1870 that the A B C method began to be generally forsaken; so that the modern teaching of reading belongs almost entirely to the last fifty years. The Pestalozzian practice of reducing each subject to its lowest terms or elements and practicing at great length upon them and, finally, after this great mass of meaningless exercising had been performed, bringing the elements together into letters or words or sentences had as bad an effect upon the teaching of writing as it had upon the teaching of reading. The lessons which

*Fifty Years of American Education* were given were not really lessons in writing. The letters were analyzed into strokes,—the straight, the outcurved, and the incurved. One must have drilled upon the strokes at very great length before he was considered fit to attempt to shape letters or to write words and sentences. Thus it will be seen that the educational bill of fare was pretty meager.

In 1869 several of the leading manufacturers of Massachusetts appealed to the legislature to direct the Board of Education to report “some definite plan for introducing schools for drawing or instruction in drawing free to all men, women, and children in all the towns of the commonwealth of more than 5000 inhabitants,” saying “every branch of manufactures in which the citizens of Massachusetts are engaged requires in the details of the processes connected with it some knowledge of drawing and other arts of design on the part of the skilled workmen engaged.” The Board of Education, being deeply impressed with the importance of the subject, intrusted its consideration to a special committee, which subsequently reported

that the almost total neglect of this branch of learning in past times had been a great defect; that we were behind many other nations in all the means of art culture, a defect felt by native artisans and mechanics, since “foreign workmen occupy the best and most responsible places in our factories and workshops”; that agents should be employed to go through the commonwealth and interest the people in this most important subject; and that “teachers should be required to be qualified to instruct in free-hand drawing, and the work should be begun in the primary departments and should be continued with zeal and fidelity through the period of school life.” As a result, a law was passed in 1870 including drawing among the branches of learning required to be taught in the public schools and authorizing cities and towns of more than 10,000 inhabitants to provide for free instruction in industrial or mechanical drawing to persons over fifteen years of age, either in day or evening schools. A supervisor of drawing was imported from England in 1870, and in 1875 the Boston Normal Art School was established.

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Manual training was introduced to the United States by an exhibit made by a Russian institution at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. Schoolmen fought it bitterly for a time, but whereas in 1890 only 37 cities had made a place for it in their schools, by 1898 there were 146 cities in which it was taught.

The movement for school instruction in drawing, which had its beginning in Boston in 1870, was greatly stimulated by the Centennial Exposition of 1876. Nation-wide instruction in the fine and industrial arts, with all that marvelous development of taste and appreciation shown in more recent American manufactures and homes, is the result of that beginning.

In 1870 there were less than a dozen kindergartens in the United States, and all save one of them were conducted in the German language; the one English-speaking kindergarten had been opened in Boston in 1860 by Miss Elizabeth Peabody. Since that time the kindergarten has made its way into every corner of this land. In 1914 there were but 6 states whose laws did not provide for kindergartens, and in 1915

there were 9486 private and public kindergartens, with 10,877 teachers and 486,800 students in them. It is likely that by this time not less than 4,000,000 children have profited by its training, and perhaps as many as 30,000 young women have been instructed in the fine art of providing opportunities for beginning their education to young children, for whom the beginning is still the most important part of their entire course, even as it was to the discerning mind of Plato. The introduction of the kindergarten into American education has been called "the greatest step in the educational history of the country, with the exception of the founding of normal schools." And perhaps the most significant change which the kindergarten has wrought, it has brought about indirectly, through its wholesome modification of the work which children do in the primary grades and of the spirit in which they do it, rather than directly through its own instruction.

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For a comparative study of the changes which have taken place in common schools, that is, the public elementary and high schools

maintained by state and local taxation, we cannot do better than examine the following table from the report of the Commissioner of Education for the year 1916.

COMMON-SCHOOL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED

	1870	1875	1880	1885
Total population . . . . .	<sup>2</sup> 38,558,371	<sup>3</sup> 43,700,554	<sup>2</sup> 50,155,783	<sup>3</sup> 56,221,868
Persons five to eighteen years of age . . . . .	<sup>2</sup> 12,055,443	<sup>3</sup> 13,405,200	<sup>2</sup> 15,065,767	<sup>3</sup> 16,773,190
Pupils enrolled (duplicates excluded). . . . .	6,871,522	8,785,678	9,867,505	11,398,024
Per cent of total population enrolled . . . . .	17.82	20.10	19.67	20.27
Per cent of persons five to eighteen years of age enrolled	57.00	65.54	65.50	67.96
Average daily attendance . .	4,077,347	5,248,114	6,144,143	7,297,529
Relation of same to enrollment (per cent) . . . . .	59.3	59.7	62.3	64.0
Average length of school term (days) . . . . .	<sup>4</sup> 132.2	130.4	130.3	130.7
Total number of days attended by all pupils . . . . .	539,053,423	684,189,477	800,719,970	953,451,056
Average number of days attended by each person five to eighteen . . . . .	44.7	51.0	53.1	56.8
Average number of days attended by each pupil enrolled	78.4	77.9	81.1	83.6
Male teachers . . . . .	77,529	108,791	122,795	121,762
Female teachers . . . . .	122,986	149,074	163,798	204,154
Whole number of teachers . .	200,515	257,865	286,593	325,916
Per cent of male teachers . .	38.7	42.2	42.8	37.4
Average monthly wages of male teachers <sup>4</sup> . . . . .				
Average monthly wages of female teachers . . . . .				
Average for all teachers <sup>4</sup> . .	\$28.54	\$32.55	\$29.96	\$34.22
Number of schoolhouses <sup>5</sup> . .	116,312	157,364	178,122	205,315
Value of all school property .	\$130,383,008	\$192,013,666	\$209,571,718	\$263,668,536

<sup>1</sup> The figures for this year are subject to correction.

<sup>2</sup> United States census.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated.



The number of persons from five to eight- *Some*  
 teen years of age in the United States in 1914 *Changes*  
 was a little more than twice as many as in 1870, *since the*  
 but the number of pupils enrolled in school *Civil War*

STATES IN VARIOUS YEARS—GENERAL STATISTICS

1890	1895	1900	1905	1910	1914 <sup>1</sup>
<sup>2</sup> 62,622,250	<sup>3</sup> 68,844,341	<sup>2</sup> 75,602,515	<sup>3</sup> 82,584,061	<sup>2</sup> 91,972,266	98,781,324
<sup>2</sup> 18,543,201	<sup>3</sup> 19,911,050	<sup>2</sup> 21,404,322	<sup>3</sup> 23,410,800	<sup>2</sup> 24,239,948	26,002,153
12,722,581	14,243,765	15,503,110	16,468,300	17,813,852	19,153,786
20.32	20.69	20.51	19.94	19.56	19.39
68.61	71.54	72.43	70.35	73.49	73.66
8,153,635	9,548,722	10,632,772	11,481,531	12,827,307	14,216,459
64.1	67.0	68.6	69.7	72.1	74.2
134.7	139.5	144.3	150.9	157.5	158.7
1,098,232,725	1,331,775,201	1,534,822,633	1,732,845,238	2,011,477,065	2,255,657,142
59.2	66.9	71.8	74.0	83.0	86.7
<sup>*</sup> 86.3	93.5	99.0	105.2	113.0	117.8
125,525	129,706	126,588	110,532	110,481	114,662
238,397	268,336	296,474	349,737	412,729	465,396
363,922	398,042	423,062	460,269	523,210	580,058
34.5	32.6	29.9	24.0	21.1	19.8
	\$46.82	\$46.53	\$55.04	\$68.86	\$79.94
	\$39.41	\$38.93	\$42.69	\$53.40	\$62.57
\$37.47	\$41.02	\$45.11	\$51.10	\$61.70	\$66.07
224,526	239,630	248,279	256,826	265,474	276,460
\$342,531,791	\$440,666,022	\$550,069,217	\$733,446,805	\$1,091,007,512	\$1,444,666,859

<sup>4</sup> Several states are not included in this average.

<sup>5</sup> Including buildings rented.

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COMMON-SCHOOL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED

	1870	1875	1880	1885
Receipts:				
From income of permanent funds and rents . . . . .				
From state taxes . . . . .				
From local taxes . . . . .				
From all other sources . . . . .				
Total received . . . . .				
Percent of total derived from—				
Income of permanent funds and rents . . . . .				
State taxes . . . . .				
Local taxes . . . . .				
All other sources . . . . .				
Expenditures:				
For sites, buildings, furniture, libraries, and apparatus . . . . .				
For salaries of superintendents and teachers . . . . .	\$37,832,566	\$54,722,250	\$55,942,972	\$72,878,993
For all other purposes . . . . .				
Total expended . . . . .	\$63,396,666	\$83,504,007	\$78,094,687	\$110,328,375
Expenditure per capita of population . . . . .	\$1.64	\$1.91	\$1.56	\$1.96
Expenditure per pupil in average attendance:				
For sites, buildings, etc. . . . .				
For salaries . . . . .	\$9.28	\$10.43	\$9.10	\$9.99
For all other purposes . . . . .				
Total expenditure per pupil . . . . .	\$15.55	\$15.91	\$12.71	\$15.12
Per cent of expenditure devoted to—				
Sites, buildings, etc. . . . .				
Salaries . . . . .	59.7	65.5	71.6	66.1
All other purposes . . . . .				
Average expenditure per day for each pupil (cents)—				
For salaries . . . . .	7.0	8.0	7.0	7.6
For all purposes . . . . .	11.8	12.2	9.7	11.6

## STATES IN VARIOUS YEARS—FINANCIAL STATISTICS

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1890	1895	1900	1905	1910	1914 <sup>1</sup>
\$7,744,765	\$7,800,740	\$9,152,274	\$13,194,042	\$14,096,555	\$16,916,690
26,345,323	34,638,098	37,886,740	44,349,295	64,604,701	87,895,320
97,222,426	118,915,304	149,486,845	210,167,770	312,221,582	425,457,487
11,882,292	15,210,769	23,240,130	34,107,962	42,140,859	31,473,977
\$143,194,806	\$176,564,911	\$219,765,989	\$301,819,069	\$433,063,697	\$561,743,474
5.4	4.4	4.2	4.4	3.2	3.01
18.4	19.6	17.2	14.7	14.9	15.65
67.9	67.3	68.0	69.6	72.1	75.74
8.3	8.7	10.6	11.3	9.8	5.60
\$26,207,041	\$29,436,940	\$35,450,820	\$56,416,168	\$69,978,370	\$91,606,460
91,836,484	113,872,388	137,687,746	177,462,981	253,915,170	323,610,915
22,463,190	32,499,951	41,826,052	57,737,511	102,356,894	139,859,771
\$140,506,715	\$175,809,279	\$214,964,618	\$291,616,660	\$426,250,434	\$555,077,146
\$2.24	\$2.55	\$2.84	\$3.53	\$4.64	\$5.62
\$3.21	\$3.08	\$3.33	\$4.91	\$5.46	\$6.44
11.26	11.93	12.95	15.46	19.79	22.76
2.76	3.40	3.93	5.03	7.98	9.84
\$17.23	\$18.41	\$20.21	\$25.40	\$33.23	\$39.04
18.6	16.7	16.5	19.3	16.41	16.50
65.4	64.8	64.0	60.9	59.60	58.30
16.0	18.5	19.5	19.8	23.99	25.20
8.4	8.6	9.0	10.2	12.6	14.34
12.8	13.2	14.0	16.8	21.1	24.60

<sup>1</sup> The figures for this year are subject to correction.

*Fifty Years of American Education* was nearly three times as many in 1914 as in 1870, while the average daily attendance in 1914 was more than three times that of 1870. The average number of days attended by each person in 1870 was 44.7, in 1914 it was 86.7. The average monthly wages of teachers has increased from \$28.54 to \$66.07, while the number of schoolhouses has more than doubled, and the value of school property was more than eleven times as great in 1914 as in 1870. Moreover, the funds available for the maintenance of public schools were nearly four times as great in 1914 as they were but twenty-three years before, in 1892. Surely this is a record of which a country may well be proud.

But the table does not by any means tell the complete story of the changes which have taken place. The first graded schools came into being about 1860. Before that time primary schools were not generally regarded as a part of the school system, but were thought of as things apart and were very indifferently treated. They had to make their way into the system very much in the same way that the kindergartens

have since made theirs. The high schools also were at first supplementary schools. They too had to be integrated into the system. Supervision of instruction is almost wholly a thing of the last fifty years. The first city superintendent took office in Buffalo in 1837. Providence followed in 1839; New Orleans in 1841; Cleveland in 1844; Baltimore in 1849; Cincinnati in 1850; Boston in 1851; New York, San Francisco, and Jersey City in 1852; Newark and Brooklyn in 1853; Chicago and St. Louis in 1854; Philadelphia not until 1883. A school system without a superintendent is practically unthought of at the present time. At the beginning of this half century it was the rule and its opposite the rare exception. It was in 1867 that William Torrey Harris became superintendent of schools of St. Louis, beginning thirteen years of almost unequalled service as educator of the American people. The course of study which he made, the conceptions of education which he championed,—as, for example, “Our American idea rests on this principle: not what the teacher does for the pupil, but what he gets

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*Fifty Years of American Education* the pupil to do for himself is of value," "Every step toward the mastery of the printed page is a step toward freedom from and independence of living teachers. Thus our education is a giving of the conventionalities of a perpetual self-education,"—and the *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* which he edited (the first periodical devoted to philosophy anywhere published in the English tongue) demonstrate for all time what the office of city superintendent of schools at its best may be.

"The history of education since the time of Horace Mann," says Dr. Harris, "is very largely an account of the successive modifications introduced into elementary schools through the direct or indirect influence of the normal school." The 42 normal schools with which our period started had increased to 273 in 1914, 232 of them being public and 41 private schools. Besides, there were 1189 public and 292 private high schools offering training courses for teachers. In all a total of 131,998 students were being made acquainted with the functions of the teacher and habituated under direction to the

work of teaching. The first normal schools received their pupils from the elementary schools. Framingham's requirements in 1867 were that the candidate must be at least sixteen years of age, must declare his intention to teach in the schools of Massachusetts, and "must present a certificate of good physical, intellectual, and moral character, and pass a satisfactory examination in reading, spelling, writing, defining, grammar, geography, and arithmetic." "The course of study," says this same circular of 1867, "includes reading, with analysis of sounds and vocal gymnastics; writing; spelling, with derivations and definitions; punctuation; grammar, with analysis of the English language; arithmetic; algebra; geometry; physical and political geography, with map drawing; physiology; botany; zoölogy; natural philosophy; astronomy; mental and moral philosophy; school laws; theory and art of teaching; civil polity of Massachusetts and the United States; English literature; vocal music; drawing. The Latin and French languages may be pursued as optional studies, but not to the neglect of the English

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course.” And all this was to be done in a two-year course! Dr. Harris declared at the semi-centennial celebration of the founding of the Framingham Normal School, in 1888, that “all normal-school work in the country follows substantially one tradition . . . and this traces back to the course laid down at Lexington in 1839.” There have been great departures from that tradition since 1867. Normal schools now require their students to be graduates of high schools and find a two-year course all too short for proper instruction in the art of teaching. If we compare the training which they give now with the training of fifty years ago, their earlier efforts will be seen to be but a promise and beginning of the larger and more helpful work which they are doing to-day.

The first teachers’ institute was assembled by Dr. Henry Barnard in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1839.<sup>1</sup> He regarded it as only a temporary device for giving teachers an “opportunity to revise and extend their knowledge of the studies

<sup>1</sup> Jacob S. Denman organized his first teachers’ institute at Ithaca, on April 4, 1843.



usually pursued in district schools and of the best methods of school arrangements, instruction, and government under the recitations and lectures of experienced and well-known teachers and educators." This "temporary device" has lasted for seventy-seven years and has become a permanent feature of the school life of every state. The purpose of the institute has not changed. The words of its founder still state its program. In every corner of the land it provides a means of educational rededication and professional renewing and bids fair to last in some form or other as long as children and schools and teachers exist.

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The spread of these two agencies for the training of teachers has during the last fifty years been the distinctive thing about them. While their work has been intensified, their benefits have been made nearly universal. But three new agencies for professional improvement have been created within that period. One of them is the summer school, another the Teachers' Reading Circle, and the third is university-extension courses. Chautauquas, after

*Fifty Years of American Education* the type of their original in New York State, have been held in many places. Summer schools have become almost a regular feature of normal-school, university, and college work. And university-extension teaching, after a period of lethargy, now seems to be firmly established both as a duty and a privilege of most of the great teaching centers. Certain states have thought it so indispensable that they have made it an integral part of their educational work. The Teachers' Reading Circle was the invention of an Ohio teacher in the year 1882. It is now a nearly nation-wide institution.

If we turn from elementary education, and the special agencies more particularly charged with conserving it, to secondary and higher education, we shall find the same phenomenal changes at work there also. The high school had but a fitful and uncertain status fifty years ago. In no department of education has such amazing development taken place in the last half century as in this. In 1826 Massachusetts directed every town of 500 households to employ a master to teach United States history,

bookkeeping, geometry, surveying, and algebra; and every town of 4000 inhabitants to employ a master to teach Greek and Latin, history, rhetoric, and logic. It was the intention of this law to universalize the high school within the state. A law passed in 1848 brought it into being here and there in Ohio. Legal permission was given to organize higher grades in the public schools of Iowa in 1849, and county high schools were authorized there in 1858. Boards of education of union free school districts were authorized to establish academical departments in 1864 in New York State. Maryland legislated to abolish academies and substitute high schools for them in 1865. The high school seemed so desirable and necessary that some communities established it without waiting for authorization of law. Efforts were made to prevent this. In 1872 Judge Cooley's decision in the Kalamazoo case established the principle that "education not merely in the rudiments, but in an enlarged sense was regarded as an important practical advantage to be supplied at their option to rich and poor alike." This greatly

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encouraged the formation of high schools in other states, as well as legalized them in Michigan. Wisconsin established a system of free high schools in 1875 and Minnesota in 1881. Each succeeding year has seen their number grow, until in 1914 there was a total number of 11,515 public high schools, with 57,909 instructors and 1,218,804 students. There were moreover 2199 private secondary schools, with 13,890 teachers and 154,857 students. No statistics seem to be available to make possible a comparison of the number of schools in existence at the beginning of the half century with the number in existence at its close. Their tremendous growth can, however, be indicated by a comparison of the above figures with the number of schools in existence in 1890, when a total of 2526 public high schools, with 9120 teachers and 202,963 students, were reported. There were at that time 1632 private schools, with 7209 teachers and 94,931 students. That is, there were more than three and one-third times as many high schools, more than four and one-third times as many teachers, and more

than four and one-third times as many students in 1914 as there had been twenty-four years before. The explanation of this remarkable change is to be found in the more thorough character of high-school instruction, in the greater variety of courses which are offered, and, above all, in a growing conviction on the part of the American people that an elementary education, no matter how good it may be, is not sufficient preparation for the battle of life on the part of the young. The time seems to be rapidly approaching when public opinion will demand some sort of high-school training for all. At the beginning of our period the high school was hardly a common school. Its chief, and nearly its only function, was to teach Latin, Greek, and mathematics to the small part of the population which planned to go on to college. That traditional task has colored all its work, but is now the smallest part of it. It was solicitude "to give a child an education that shall fit him for active life and shall serve as a foundation for eminence in his profession, whether mercantile or mechanical," that led to the

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*Fifty Years of American Education* founding of the first high school, in 1821. Though the high school was an outgrowth of the elementary school, the college practice of admitting students upon examination made it an adjunct to the college. At the beginning of the Civil War these examinations were in Latin, Greek, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, algebra, geometry, and ancient history. New subjects made their appearance in the college-entrance examinations in this order:

Modern history (United States), Michigan	1869
Physical geography, Michigan and Harvard	1870
English composition, Princeton . . . . .	1870
Physical science, Harvard . . . . .	1872
English literature, Harvard . . . . .	1874
Modern language (foreign), Harvard . . .	1875

Alternative courses and a large freedom of election began to be offered in colleges about the year 1869, and, as a consequence, courses other than the classical course began to be given in high schools. Their diversity has increased with the years, and now commercial courses, technical courses, manual-training and domestic-science courses, art courses, agricultural courses,

English scientific courses, etc., and frequently separate schools devoted to one or another of these forms of instruction, are much more in evidence than is the classical course of instruction from which they all sprang. The old method of passing from the high school to the college through the entrance way of examinations is still pretty completely in force in the eastern part of the United States. In the West an accrediting system, the outgrowth of that introduced by the University of Michigan in 1871, obtains. Innumerable conferences have been held for the purpose of improving the articulation between the high school and the college. That subject is temporarily in abeyance, for in more recent years the question of the relationship of the elementary school to the high school has supplanted it. The junior high school, or intermediate school, has been created to bridge the gap that formerly lay between them. That institution is as yet rather too new for statistical consideration. It took form in Berkeley, California, in the year 1908, and has been adopted in some form or other in many cities and towns

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of the United States. Fundamentally, it involves a reorganization of courses in the seventh and eighth grades of the elementary school, to provide for differentiation of work for pupils in accordance with their tastes, aptitudes, and probable future careers. This rearrangement of courses facilitates departmental teaching. In some places this reorganized upper-elementary school is combined with the first year of the high school, and a separate intermediate school is formed. This is the six, three, and three plan. Other redistributions are found. While the six, three, and three plan bids fair to be generally accepted, the period of preliminary experimentation is not yet over.

Another change to be noted is the lengthening of the high-school course by the addition of two years of college work. This is called the junior college. It too is still an experiment which as yet but few communities have been moved to try.

Vocational education, which is the oldest form of education of all, has asserted its claims with unusual vigor since the beginning of the



twentieth century. After much agitation three types of schools have been evolved to prepare boys and girls over fourteen years of age for employment in agriculture and in the trades and industries: all-day schools, which aim to give opportunities for practicing a vocation on a productive basis; part-time schools, intended to give young workers an opportunity to extend their knowledge of their vocation or fit themselves for a new one; evening schools, to provide opportunity for mature workers to extend their knowledge of the vocations in which they are engaged during the day. Though this whole endeavor falls within this century, six or more states already have in operation definite plans for organizing and supervising vocational schools and assist local communities in financing them. These states are Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Indiana. At least four other states have made the beginnings of similar organization. Efforts to promote this type of education have already been so effective that the Smith-Hughes Bill has become a law, subsidizing vocational education

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*Fifty Years of American Education* in the several states by maximal grants of \$7,000,000 per annum from the national treasury, this money to be given to the states for the salaries of vocational teachers and for the training of such teachers only upon condition that they expend an equal amount for the same purpose. With the development of vocational education the problem of vocational guidance has demanded attention and the beginnings of a helpful service to young people have been made.

Of the 563 colleges, universities, and technological schools in the United States in 1915, not less than 304 were established since the beginning of the year 1867. "The Illinois Industrial University," located at Champaign, Illinois, was founded in 1867, "to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, not excluding other scientific and classical studies and military tactics." The preparatory department of the University of Minnesota was opened in 1867, and by 1869 a class had been fitted for the first college year. Cornell University was opened to students in 1868. The American college goes back to 1636

for its beginning, but the American university is almost entirely a creation of the last fifty years. The Yale catalogue of 1860-1861 contains the first announcement that the Ph.D. degree will be granted. Harvard did not announce it until 1872. It was not until 1890 that Harvard organized a separate graduate school. The University of Michigan offered the doctor's degree in philosophy in 1874. Johns Hopkins University was opened for instruction in 1876. It was primarily a graduate school from the first and has shaped university instruction throughout the entire country as perhaps no other influence has. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology was opened in 1865. Of the significant history and the vast influence of these and a score of other great teaching organizations the limits within which we work forbid us to speak; upon the teaching of medicine, law, and theology we may not enter, though changes as significant as any which we have mentioned have taken place in these great fields. For the education of atypical and defective children, as for each of these great subjects, a whole volume would be required.

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Of the growth of scientific agriculture we must speak a little more at length. It began with the passage of the Morrill Act on July 2, 1862, in the midst of the Civil War. It increased so mightily that in 1914 there were 69 agricultural colleges, with 69,132 students and 6379 instructors. These places of agricultural learning have for some years been teaching from 60,000 to 80,000 students per year. Approximately 53 per cent of their graduates return to the farm, and 95 per cent devote themselves to agriculture in some form or other. Of those not graduating, practically all return to the land. In addition, very liberal provisions have been made by some of the states for the teaching of agriculture in the public schools. Massachusetts has developed a remarkable system of project work. New York State has recently adopted the township system of school control and has passed a law authorizing each town to employ a town director of agriculture, the state pledging itself to provide \$600 as its contribution to his salary.

The higher education of women has been peculiarly a development of the last fifty years.

The Civil War left the work of teaching the young largely in the hands of women. They were so faithful in that which was committed to them that they were made rulers over more and more cities. If they were to teach, they must have opportunities for learning. When Michigan University opened its doors to them, in 1870, they were for the first time in the United States accorded equal opportunities with men in a thoroughly established college. All the state universities made provision for them. Of colleges for women, Vassar was opened in 1865, Wellesley in 1875, Smith in 1875, Bryn Mawr in 1885, Radcliffe in 1879, Barnard in 1889. All the universities save three or four are open to them. In 1870 but 30.7 per cent of the colleges were coeducational, and 69.3 per cent were for men only. In 1915, however, 70.7 per cent of the colleges open to men were coeducational, and 29.3 per cent for men only.

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The education of the children of the negro race was one of the most serious problems that the nation confronted at the end of the war. The Freedmen's Bureau, created by Congress

in 1865, was the first governmental agency to organize schools for them. It had the assistance of numerous religious and philanthropic societies. By 1870 it was able to report that more than 247,000 children had been gathered into classes, that the states had already made a beginning, and that "the whole race is recovering from the effects of slavery." Normal schools for the training of colored teachers had been established, and the freedmen themselves, during the first six months of 1870, paid \$200,000 for their schools. This bureau was abolished in 1872. The rancor which mistaken methods of reconstruction engendered prevented for a long time the necessary work of public education. Missionary organizations, the American Missionary Association, the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Board of Missions for Freedmen, and the American Baptist Home Mission Society, together with smaller societies of other denominations, and private benefactions, carried on and extended the work which had been begun. The dimensions of the service which they

rendered may be gathered from the fact that the American Missionary Association, organized in 1866, alone spent \$6,000,000 in twenty years of its existence in creating and maintaining no less than 9 colleges and professional schools, 12 normal schools, and 50 academies and elementary schools. The record of the other societies is of the same tenor.

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In 1867, George Peabody (immortal for his benefactions) created a trust fund of \$1,000,000, the income thereof to be applied and used "for the promotion and encouragement of intellectual, moral, or industrial education among the young of the more destitute portions of the southern and southwestern states of the Union." He directed that this benefit should be "distributed among the entire population without other distinction than their needs and the opportunities of usefulness to them." In the same year he added \$1,100,000 in Mississippi state bonds and at his death another million, making a total of \$3,000,000. This fund was most wisely distributed, aiding only those districts which raised twice the amount they received from it. Schools

*Fifty Years of American Education* received no aid unless they were graded and had at least 100 pupils, with one teacher for every 50 pupils, and an average attendance of not less than 85 per cent. During the first four years of its existence this fund was used to assist the establishing of school systems in the cities of the South; for the next four years it was used to encourage the establishment of state school systems. In 1875 its secretary reported that all the states had established school systems and were maintaining them. The trustees of the fund thereupon devoted it to the proper training of teachers. They established a normal school at Nashville, and in order that it might leaven the entire South they created a large number of scholarships, of \$200 each, to enable deserving students from all the Southern states to attend its classes. By 1903 this parent normal school was no longer needed, for it had secured the creation of state normal schools to foster the schools of each state. The trustees thereupon transformed the Peabody Normal School into the well-endowed Peabody College for the Training of Teachers.



In 1882 John F. Slater created a trust of \$1,000,000 for the promotion of normal and industrial education among the children of freedmen. The income from this fund is used chiefly to pay the salaries of teachers of industrial pursuits in schools for colored students. A board of trustees was organized in 1908 to administer a fund of \$1,000,000 given by Miss Anna T. Jeanes for fostering rural schools for negroes. This fund is used in several ways: in some districts county superintendents are assigned a superior teacher of industrial work, whose duty it is to introduce such work into the rural schools of the county and to supervise it; in other districts a teacher is assigned to a central school and does extension work in the schools of the region about it; a third method consists in coöperating with local communities in lengthening the school term. Another fund of \$1,000,000, the Phelps-Stokes fund, assists by making researches, endowing scholarships, etc. The General Education Board, incorporated in 1903 for "the promotion of education within the United States of America without distinction of race, sex, or

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creed," and which controls a fund of some \$46,000,000, originally devoted its resources to the promotion of secondary, rural, and negro education in the Southern states. Since 1905 it has taken the entire country for its province, and more recently it has planned to assist medical education in China. It is chiefly concerned with the promotion of agriculture in the South, the development of a system of secondary schools there, and the promotion of higher education throughout the nation. With such encouragement as these great organizations have been able to give the education of the colored race, it is clear that progress altogether unprecedented in the history of the world has been made. The average of life has risen so rapidly, and colored men who were born in slavery have attained such usefulness and leadership in the short period since the war, as to encourage a confident hopefulness for the future of their race. The work of Booker T. Washington alone has transformed the status of a people. It is a significant fact that the industrial training developed in the colored schools has blazed a

path which education is to-day taking throughout the nation.

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In addition to those already mentioned, three other great endowments have been made for the promotion of education. One of these is the Carnegie Institution at Washington. It took form in 1907 and is a corporation "to encourage in the broadest and most liberal manner investigation, research, and discovery, and the application of knowledge to the improvement of mankind." It has a fund of \$22,000,000 for that purpose.

In the year 1906 Mr. Carnegie created a Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, endowing it with \$10,000,000, to which sum in 1908 he added \$5,000,000. "I have reached the conclusion," said Mr. Carnegie, "that the least rewarded of all the professions is that of the teacher in our higher educational institutions. . . . I have transferred to you, and to your successors as trustees, \$10,000,000, the revenue from which is to provide retiring pensions for the teachers of universities, colleges, and technical schools in our country, Canada, and

*Fifty Years of American Education* Newfoundland, under such conditions as you may adopt from time to time.”

The Russell Sage Foundation was created in 1907, by a gift of \$10,000,000 from Mrs. Sage, for the “improvement of social and living conditions in the United States of America.” Its trustees decided at the beginning that its primary function is “to eradicate as far as possible the causes of poverty and ignorance rather than to relieve the sufferings of those who are poor or ignorant.” Among its activities has been a persistent study of the ways of measuring educational progress and results, and a series of important investigations of the problem of retardation and elimination in the public schools. Very important school surveys have been made by its educational staff. The total bequests to education from 1871 to 1914, inclusive, is reported by the United States Commissioner of Education as \$584,418,082.

It is fitting since we began with science that we should end with science. There is no magic about it, nothing but the patience to answer human problems by examining minutely facts

which bear upon them. This same minuter ex- *Some*  
amining of facts which in fifty years produced *Changes*  
a new medicine has produced a new education. *since the*  
Three hundred years ago Richard Mulcaster *Civil War*  
urged the importance of a serious study of edu-  
cation. "I conclude," he said, "that this trade  
requireth a particular college for these four  
causes. First, for the subject, being the means  
to make or mar the whole fry of our state. Sec-  
ondly, for the number, whether of them that  
are to learn or of them that are to teach. Thirdly,  
for the necessity of the profession, which may  
not be spared. Fourthly, for the matter of their  
study, which is comparable to the greatest pos-  
sessions, for language, for judgment, for skill  
how to train, for variety in all points of learn-  
ing, wherein the framing of the mind and the  
exercising of the body craveth exquisite con-  
sideration, besides the staidness of the person."  
College authorities were deaf to this proposal  
and blind to this need until President Wayland  
sought to establish a course of instruction in the  
science of teaching at Brown University in 1850.  
His efforts were not successful. Horace Mann

*Fifty Years of American Education* introduced such a course as an elective study at Antioch College in 1853. The University of Iowa had a normal department from 1856 to 1873, which became a chair of didactics after that date. In 1874 President Angell recommended that lectures be given to the senior class of the University of Michigan on the organizing and management of schools and the art of teaching. In 1879 the Regents, on the recommendation of the president and faculty of that university, established a chair of science and art of teaching, with the fivefold purpose, as they declared, of fitting university students for the higher positions in the public-school service, of promoting the science of education, of teaching the history and theory of education, of securing to teaching the rights and prerogatives of a profession, and of giving a more perfect unity to the state educational system.

Since that time many universities and colleges have created similar chairs, which have not been slow in becoming energetic departments. For a long time their occupants were regarded with a good deal of suspicion by their

more conservative colleagues in the academic family. They were not slow, however, in proving their usefulness, and it soon became apparent that the interest which they represented was too serious and far-reaching to be conserved by such inadequate means. *Some Changes since the Civil War*

Clark University, which opened in 1889, made ampler provision for it; and in 1898 Teachers College became a professional school of Columbia University, taking rank with the schools of law, medicine, and applied science. The University of Chicago has also established a college of education, and schools of education are now to be found in nearly all of the larger universities.

This institutional study of education is a twentieth-century activity. Its first fruits are a clearer comprehension of educational principles and a more thorough organization of educational machinery. Energetic research has already been as profitable in this field as in other fields of science.

One of our most capable historians of education values what has been achieved in this

direction so highly that he does not hesitate to say that John Dewey's discovery that real education is and must be based upon the nature of the child and E. L. Thorndike's discovery of a method of scientifically measuring educational results will in time be ranked in importance with Darwin's conception of evolution. Rousseau's adjuration "Study your pupil, for it is evident that you know nothing about him" has been a controlling principle in the last four decades. A science of child psychology came into being, and psychological conceptions and methods took the place of empirical notions and rule-of-thumb devices of an earlier time. Herbart's reconstructions of educational doctrine contributed to this movement. Physiology and psychology taught the schoolmaster that the human organism is an action system. Passivity in learning was abandoned, and methods of training through activity were substituted for it. The newly discovered science of medicine and the new education joined forces to conserve the physical well-being of the growing child. Activistic psychology revealed the importance of



Nature's method of training him by play. Scientific study of administration and of methods of instruction led to a reorganization of schools, and school surveying came into being as a method of determining whether or not conditions called for improvement and of deciding what that improvement should be. The effort to evaluate instruction necessitated the formulation of standards and measuring scales with which to detect the presence or absence of the results required. That particular endeavor is still in its earlier stages, but bureaus for measuring and testing the sufficiency of the processes and the products of instruction have been created in several places. The study of sociology has contributed substantially to the remaking of educational theory. The pragmatic philosophy, with its revolutionary conception of the nature and function of knowledge, has just begun to revise educational aims and remake programs of study. Newer and truer educational rallying cries begin to sound above the call to get knowledge for the sake of knowledge and science for the sake of science. Purposive education begins to banish

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*Fifty Years of American Education*      aimless learning from the field. The doctrine of formal or general discipline, which directed the pursuit of certain studies for the development of the faculties or powers of the mind, has been scientifically tested and found wanting. A philosophy of education can no longer be made out of it. When it is given up, as it must be, only specific education will remain, but specific education so rich in variety and so definite in purpose and method that it promises results far better than those which the old training gave.

Thus at the end of fifty years of unparalleled progress the world waits impatiently for the coming of peace to begin a yet greater cycle of educational renewing.

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